

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An automated method of scheduling reinforcing bars for use in reinforced products, the method including the steps of:
 - storing default reinforced product parameters in a database;
 - receiving in electronic form one or more drawings containing reinforced product properties including one or more characterisations for at least one reinforcing bar in the reinforced product;
 - in a database engine, reading said drawing(s) including said characterisation(s) in the drawings, thereby detecting said reinforced product properties including said one or more characterisations for at least one reinforcing bar in the reinforced product; and
 - using the stored reinforced product parameters and detected reinforced product properties to generate reinforcing bar scheduling data.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reinforced products include reinforced concrete products, including any one or more of a concrete slab, beam, column, wall, stair, tilt panel, coupler, top hat, bar chair and laser bar.
3. (currently amended) A method according to ~~either one of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include any one or more of the outline of the reinforced product, the extent of the reinforced product and any penetrations of the reinforced product.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include steps in one or more surfaces of the reinforced product, including any visible and hidden steps in the reinforced product.
5. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include text characterising one or more of the reinforcing bars.
6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the text characterises the dimensions of reinforcing bars or the spacing between reinforcing bars.
7. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the reinforcing bar dimensions include any one or more of shape, length and position within a layer of the reinforced product.
8. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include the shape of one or more of the reinforcing bars.

9. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include the extent of one or more ranges of the reinforcing bars.
10. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforcing bars include primary reinforcing bars or secondary reinforcing bars, such as distribution steel.
11. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include data characterising the secondary reinforcing bars.
12. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include positions where one or more reinforcing bars overlap.
13. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reinforced product properties include the gradient of one or more portions of the reinforced product.

14. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the default reinforced product parameters include the bottom or top cover of the reinforced product.

15. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the default reinforced product parameters includes bar overlap lengths.

16. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the default reinforced product parameters include default bar shapes or dimensions.

17. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, the method further including the step of:

selecting one or more zones within the one or more reinforced product drawings to carry out reinforcing bar scheduling.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein each zone corresponds to separately constructed portion of the reinforced product.

19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein at least one separately constructed portion is a separately poured section of a reinforced concrete product.

20. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~
claim 1, the method further including the step of:

at a display terminal, displaying the reinforcing bar scheduling data.

21. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~
claim 1, the method further including the step of:

rationalising the reinforcing bars for use in the reinforced products.

22. (original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the step of rationalising the reinforcing bars includes:

selecting reinforcing bars having dimensions within a predefined tolerance; and
re-labelling the selected reinforcing bars within the same dimensions on the reinforced product drawings.

23. (currently amended) An automated system for scheduling reinforcing bars for use in reinforced products, the system including:

a database for storing default reinforced product parameters; and
a database engine for reading one or more reinforced product drawings and automatically detecting one or more reinforced product properties, including one or more characterisations for at least one reinforcing bar in the reinforced product, wherein the database engine uses the stored reinforced product parameters and detected

reinforced product properties to schedule reinforcing bars for use in reinforced products in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

24. (previously presented) A computer program element for use in a computerised system for scheduling reinforcing bars for use in reinforced products, the computer program element including a series of instructions for causing a database engine to:

receive in electronic form one or more drawings containing reinforced product properties including one or more characterisations for at least one reinforcing bar in the reinforced product;

reading said drawing(s) including said characterisation(s) in the drawings, thereby detecting said reinforced product properties including said one or more characterisations for at least one reinforcing bar in the reinforced product; and

using the reinforced product parameters stored in a database, and the detected reinforced product properties, to generate reinforcing bar scheduling data.